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FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION

Official Records

GENERAL COMMITTEE
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held on
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at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 12th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. INSANALLY
(President of the General Assembly)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA OF THE FORTY-EIGHTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND ALLOCATION OF ITEMS (continued)

Request for the inclusion of an additional item submitted by Mozambique (A/48/249)

1. The CHAIRMAN invited the Committee to consider a request by Mozambique for the inclusion of an additional item entitled "Emergency assistance to Mozambique" and contained in document A/48/249. The representative of Mozambique had indicated his desire to address the Committee in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

2. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Comissario Afonso (Mozambique) took a place at the Committee table.

3. Mr. COMISSARIO AFONSO (Mozambique) said that a severe tropical cyclone had struck vast areas of central and northern Mozambique on 24 March 1994, causing loss of life and extensive damage. That natural disaster had brought about a new emergency situation posing a great challenge to his country, which had not yet recovered fully from the devastating consequences of the recent drought in southern Africa and the long conflict that had taken place in Mozambique.

4. The cyclone had caused widespread destruction of property and 80 per cent of the country's agricultural production had been lost. In the urban centres, virtually all commercial, private and public installations had either been destroyed or seriously damaged. Water-supply and sewage systems, schools and hospitals had been seriously affected, posing a grave threat to public health and the well-being of millions of people. Given the current state of the national economy, a significant portion of those facilities could not be repaired in the foreseeable future, without adequate outside assistance.

5. His Government had done everything in its power to address the situation and prevent further tragedy. The assistance provided by individual Governments, non-governmental organizations and United Nations agencies in order to help people in need and minimize the magnitude of the tragedy was commendable. While it was not yet possible to determine the exact amount of resources needed to address the situation effectively, it was clear that national efforts alone would not be sufficient to respond to the challenges that lay ahead. He therefore requested that in accordance with article 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an additional item entitled "Emergency assistance to Mozambique" should be included in the agenda of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, on a priority basis.

6. Ms. VASISHT (India), Mr. HADID (Algeria), Mr. SERME (Burkina Faso), Mr. BULL (Liberia), Mr. MUSUKA (Zambia), Mr. Doo Young KIM (Republic of Korea), Mrs. FLORES (Uruguay), Mr. KALPAGE (Sri Lanka), Mr. AWAAD (Egypt), Mr. CASTELLANOS-CARRILLO (Guatemala), Mr. MONGBE (Benin), Ms. JAHAN (Bangladesh), and Mr. JADMANI (Pakistan) expressed solidarity with the Government and people of Mozambique and said that they supported the inclusion of the item.

7. The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include the additional item in the agenda.

8. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the item should be considered directly in plenary meeting on a priority basis because of its urgency.

The meeting rose at 10.50 a.m.